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CALNE RURAL DISTRICT.

The Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Rural District of Calne for 1925.

This report is compiled in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health.

AREA.—

The area comprises 28968 acres.

About one-fifth of this in the South-Eastern part is chalk down, and the upper ridge of this marks the division of the watersheds of the Thames and Severn. The rest of the area is vale land with a soil of a clayey brash nature lying in a sub-soil of coral ragstone. Here and there, as at Whitley and Chilvester, there are deposits of Kimmeridge clay and also areas of green sand as at Studley, Goatacre, &c.

A small stream, the Marden, rises at Calstone from springs in the green sand, flows in a North-Westerly direction, and divides the area so that about one quarter lies on the left bank the rest being on the other

The district is on the whole well drained. Some of the small streams, which join the Marden, have during the last few years been cleaned, deepened, and re-levelled with general improvement of the drainage.

POPULATION.

By Census	4640
As calculated by the Registrar General for purposes of Vital Statistics	4746
Number of inhabited houses 1921	1156
Number of families or separate occupiers 1921	1137
Rateable Value	£48,820
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£203

SOCIAL CONDITION.—

The industry is farming, and the character of the farming varies: arable farming on the chalk downs (although there is a gradual process of change taking place here, the old open arable land being laid down to grass and enclosed; Southdown sheep, corn and roots being replaced by cattle and grass), and dairy farming in the vale.

The dairy farms export all the milk produced and no butter or cheese is nowadays made in the district.

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS	M.	F.	
Legitimate	42	39	
Illegitimate	7	0	
	—	—	
	49	39	Total 88

Birth Rate 18.5 per 1000 inhabitants.

DEATHS	Male	Female	
	15	29	Total 44

Death Rate 9.3 per 1000 inhabitants.

Number of Women dying in consequence of childbirth—

<i>a.</i> from Sepsis	0
<i>b.</i> from other causes	0

Deaths of Infants under one year—

	Male	Female	
Legitimate	4	2	
Illegitimate	0	1	
	—	—	
	4	3	Total 7

Death Rate per 1000 births 77.1.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year which has received or requires special comment.

The amount of Poor Law out-relief during 1925—

£188 16s. 9d,

Medical aid in suitable cases can easily be obtained through the Poor Law. No other form of gratuitous medical aid exists locally, but the Hospitals at Bath and Bristol are utilized and are available for serious cases.

There has been no cause of sickness or invalidity requiring special notice during the last five years, nor any condition of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the Local Authorities or County Council.

1. Tuberculosis—

Winsley Sanatorium.

Harnham Sanatorium.

2. Maternity.—None.

3. Children.—None.

4. Fever.—

Calne Joint Isolation Hospital at Northfields, can accommodate Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, and Typhoid Fever cases.

There are 4 Wards—

2 large Wards with 12 beds each.

2 small Wards with 6 beds each.

5. Small Pox.—

Accommodation provided by County Authority at Swindon.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children—

none except the Maternity Wards in the Work-house Infirmary.

Ambulance Facilities.—

a. Infectious Cases. An ambulance is stationed at the Calne Isolation Hospital.

b. Other Cases. None.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—

None.

Public Health Officers.—

- a.* Medical Officer of Health.
- b.* Sanitary Inspector, John Godfrey, who is also Road Surveyor.

Professional Nursing in the Home.—

- a.* General. None is provided for by either the Local Authority or County Council.
The village midwives at Derry Hill, Heddington and Hilmarton attend other cases as far as possible.
- b.* Infectious Diseases. None

Midwives—

The Local Authority does not employ or subsidise any Midwife.

There are three Midwives practising in the district.

Chemical Work.—

None.

Legislation in Force.

Byelaws in respect to the cleansing of Footways and Pavements, the removal of house refuse, and the cleansing of earth closets, &c, in that portion of the Rural District of Calne which comprises the contributory Places of Calne—7th September, 1887.

Byelaws with respect to New Streets and Buildings in that portion of the Rural District of Calne which comprises the Contributory Place of Calne, made 13th May, 1924.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**WATER.—**

The following villages have a communal supply—Hilmarton, Foxham, East Tytherton, Highway and Bremhill.

In each case the water is collected from a spring into a tank and is conveyed to the houses either separately or in groups.

The other houses of the district obtain their water supply from wells and springs.

The water is pure, of good quality and possesses no plumbo-solvent properties in any case.

No wells have been condemned during the last five years.

Rivers and Streams.

No fresh case of river pollution has occurred during the last eight years.

The Marden stream below the outfall of the Calne Sewerage Works has been polluted by the effluent. New Works are contemplated which will remove this pollution in the near future.

Drainage and Sewerage.

There are no public drains or sewers.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION—

The closets are mostly of the pail closet type. There are no available statistics as to the number of W.C's. in the district.

SCAVENGING—

No scavenging is performed by the Sanitary Authority. The privies are cleaned by the occupiers who dispose of the contents on the land.

The Sanitary Inspector has issued informal notices for the abatement of nuisances in 25 cases.

The Sanitary Inspector issued informal notices re insanitary closets in 6 cases.

These informal notices were at once complied with.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector under Act 19 (12) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1922.

The following premises have been inspected—

- 7 Bakehouses
- 1 Slaughter House
- 1 Knackers' Premises
- 1 Steam Saw Mill
- 1 Steam Flour Mill
- 4 Flour Mills
- 5 Blacksmiths' Shops
- 7 Carpenters' Shops
- 2 Wheelwrights' Shops

No Statutory notice for amendment of defects was issued.

Smoke Abatement.

Nil.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye Laws or Regulations.

There is one Knacker's Yard. This is periodically inspected. It is kept clean and tidy and no nuisance has arisen in connection with it.

Schools.

The sanitary conditions of the schools is regularly inspected. No cause of complaint has arisen during the year.

HOUSING.

I.—General Housing Conditions in the area.

1.—General Housing Conditions.—

During the last five years the conditions have slowly but steadily improved. Practically nearly all the really bad cottages

have been demolished. The defective houses which still remain are slowly being put into a better state of repair, but there still is a very great deal to be done.

2.—Shortage.—

There does not appear to be a real shortage of houses in this area. What shortage there is, is only part of the general demand for houses, and is apparent only, being produced by a certain number of houses being occupied by workpeople whose occupation lies in the town and not on the land. A majority of the new houses erected by the Local Authority, under a housing scheme in this area, as cottages for rural labourers, are occupied by town workers.

3.—Movement of Population.—

No important changes of population have occurred or are likely.

II.—Overcrowding.

This does not occur to any large extent, two cases have been dealt with informally during the year. They were both cases of too large families in too small houses.

III —Fitness of Houses.

- a.* General standard—good.
- b.* Defects noticed were bad roofs, damp walls and defective stairs.
- c.* The defects noticed were mostly due to the character of the cottages which are mainly old.

IV.—Statutory Action as to unfit houses.

No action has been taken under

- a.* The Public Health Acts.
- b.* The Housing Acts.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year

- | | |
|--|---|
| <i>a.</i> Total | 1 |
| <i>b.</i> With State assistance under the Housing Act— | |
| 1. By the Local Authority | 0 |
| 2. By other bodies or persons | 1 |

I.—Unfit Dwelling Houses—**INSPECTION.**

Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	24
Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925	24
Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
Number of dwelling houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	0

II. *Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—*

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	16
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III. *Action under Statutory Powers—*

<i>a.</i> Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act 1925	0
<i>b.</i> Proceedings under Public Health Acts	0
<i>c.</i> Proceedings under Sections, 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act 1925	0

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODS.**A. Milk Supply.**

Has improved.

There are no milk shops.

No action has been required as regards tuberculous cattle or milk.

B. Meat

a. The one slaughter house is inspected regularly. It is used for the killing of swine only and is licensed.

b. The meat carts which travel round the country are inspected whenever opportunity occurs.

There are no public Slaughter Houses.

Number of Registered and Licensed Slaughter Houses—

	In 1920	In Jan., 1925	In Dec., 1925
Registered	1	1	0
Licensed	0	0	1
Total	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

C. Other Foods.

The Grocers' Shops are inspected.

No action has been required.

No cases of food poisoning have occurred.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious Diseases Generally.

During the period under review there have been no serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease.

In 1924 a troublesome series of cases of scarlet fever occurred at Derry Hill from time to time. Eventually the School was closed, subjected with all the school impedimenta to a thorough sterilization with sulphur vapour for some days. There were no more cases.

Diphtheria antitoxin is always available for prompt use in every case.

In 1923-24 chicken pox was made notifiable. The Medical Officer of Health visited cases for the purpose of verifying the diagnosis. Examination of swabs, blood, &c., is paid for by the Authority, and full use is made of this arrangement.

The Schick and Dick tests for diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively have not been made use of, nor the recently developed artificial method of immunization against these diseases.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small Pox prevention) Regulations 1917.

Since 1920 there have been a few outbreaks of mumps, whooping cough, and chicken pox which was made temporarily notifiable in 1923, and towards the end of 1925 one of measles.

The School Authorities regularly notify all cases of these diseases which occur among the School Children and the Medical Officer of Health investigates accordingly.

Disinfection.

METHOD.—The whole or part of a house is sealed up and the contents exposed to the vapour of Sulphur Candles or Alformant lamps for as long a time as is thought necessary or convenient. Bedding, etc., is removed to the Isolation Hospital for treatment in a Thresh's Disinfector.

Similar facilities are used for the disinfection of verminous houses and persons, and their belongings.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease.		Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	...			
Scarlet Fever	...	5	4	0
Diphtheria	...	1	1	0
Enteric Fever	...			
Puerpual Fever	...			
Pneumonia	...			
Other Disease	...			
Totals	...	6	5	0

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0				1				1
1								
5			1					
10			1					
15		1						
20								
25		1						
35		1				1		
45								
55	1							
65 upwards.	1							
Totals	2	3	2	1		1		1

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

No action has been required.

RALPH S. FERGUSON,

*M. O. H. Calne.**March 31st, 1926.*

